

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
NSC-05 /065 W  
-----118147 201228Z /50

R 201127Z AUG 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5437  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
CINCUSAFE  
USNMR SHAPE BE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 07966

E.O.11652:GDS  
TAGS:NATO, OCON, MILI  
SUBJECT: GUIDED WEAPONS FOR THE UK ARMED FORCES

REF: LONDON 13737 DTG 171714Z AUG 77.

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES TEXT IN PARA 3 BELOW OF SUBJECT  
MEMO SENT BY UK PERMREP KILLICK TO ACTING SYG PANSO ON  
17 AUG 77. THE MEMO FURTHER EXPLAINS THE NEW UK GUIDED  
MISSILE ORDERS REPORTED REFTEL.

2. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT THE SEA DART INFORMATION (PARA 6  
OF TEXT) INCLUDES A STATEMENT CONCERNING ITS POSSIBLE  
FUTURE APPLICATION IN A LAND-BASED MEDIUM SAM SYSTEM.  
WASHINGTON WILL RECALL THAT THE LAND-BASED SEA DART VARIANT  
IS DESCRIBED IN NATO DOCUMENT AC/280-D/81(REVISED) AND IS  
BEING CONSIDERED TOGETHER WITH PATRIOT BY AC/259(SG/IHAWK)  
STUDY GROUP FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF SYSTEMS OF THE IMPROVED  
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HAWK CLASS.  
3. BEGIN TEXT OF THE UK MEMO.

GUIDED WEAPONS FOR THE UK ARMED FORCES

1. AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS BEING MADE IN LONDON TODAY ABOUT  
DECISIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE MISSILE

EQUIPMENT OF THE UK ARMED FORCES IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT RESPECTS. SINCE THESE DECISIONS ARE VERY RELEVANT TO CURRENT WORK IN THE ALLIANCE TO SECURE SUCH IMPROVEMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF ANTI-TANK DEFENSE, AS WELL AS TO DISCUSSION ON INCREASING THE LEVEL OF STANDARDIZATION WITHIN NATO, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL TO HAVE A NOTE ABOUT THEM.

#### ANTI-TANK GUIDED WEAPONS

2. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE FOR MORE THAN A YEAR BEEN CARRYING OUT A CAREFUL EVALUATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ARMING OUR ARMY LYNX HELICOPTERS EITHER WITH THE FRANCO-GERMAN HOT SYSTEM, OR WITH THE US TOW SYSTEM; WE HAD DECIDED IN 1975 NOT TO PROCEED WITH OUR OWN DEVELOPMENT CALLED HAWKSWING. THIS COMPARATIVE EVALUATION TOOK ACCOUNT OF MANY IMPORTANT FACTORS, INCLUDING PERFORMANCE; THE NEED TO ENSURE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE IN-SERVICE DATE; STANDARDIZATION; ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS, INCLUDING OFFSET; AND INDUSTRIAL FACTORS INCLUDING EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS COOPERATION AND THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC ON THE "TWO-WAY STREET." FINALLY, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT ON BALANCE, THE TOW SYSTEM SHOULD BE SELECTED.

3. BY THIS DECISION, WE WILL HAVE A HELICOPTER-BORNE ANTI-TANK MISSILE IN SERVICE IN 1980, EARLIER THAN WOULD OTHER-  
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WISE BE POSSIBLE; AND WE WILL HAVE THE SAME SYSTEM AS EIGHT OTHER NATO NATIONS. THIS DECISION THEREFORE REPRESENTS A FURTHER SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN A MOST IMPORTANT AREA, ADDITIONAL TO THE SHORT TERM MEASURES ALREADY LISTED IN MCM-51-77; FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COURSE OF THE 1977 DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE DECISION IS BOUND TO DISAPPOINT OUR FRENCH AND GERMAN ALLIES; BUT THE BRITISH ARMY IS ALSO BUYING THE FRANCO-GERMAN MILAN ANTI-TANK GUIDED WEAPON SYSTEM, AND THIS DECISION TOO WILL BRING BIG BENEFITS BY WAY OF STANDARDIZATION. WE ARE SURE THAT EUROPEAN COLLABORATION IN THE ANTI-TANK GUIDED WEAPON FIELD WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER.  
SIDEWINDER AIM 9L

4. IT HAS ALSO BEEN DECIDED THAT WE SHALL MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS FOR FURTHER QUANTITIES OF SHORT RANGE AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES BY PROCURING THE SIDEWINDER AIM 9L, AND WE HOPE TO DO THIS THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM WHICH THE EUROGROUP PLANS TO ESTABLISH UNDER GERMAN LEADERSHIP.

#### AIR LAUNCHED ANTI-SHIP MISSILES

5. AT THE SAME TIME, BRITISH AEROSPACE ARE BEING INSTRUCTED TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT DEFINITION OF PT3, WHICH IS TO BE A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF, AND REPLACEMENT FOR, THE CURRENT ANGLO-FRENCH MARTEL MISSILE IN THE ANTI-SHIP ROLE. THIS MISSILE WILL IN DUE COURSE EQUIP BUCCANEER, TORNADO AND SEA HARRIER AIRCRAFT.

IMPROVEMENTS TO SEA DART

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6. FINALLY, CONTRACTS ARE TO BE PLACED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROYAL NAVY'S SEA DART AREA AIR DEFENSE MISSILE; THIS IS MAINLY FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO MEET THE INCREASING ECM THREAT UP TO THE YEAR 2000. CLEARLY, THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT FOR ANY POSSIBLE FUTURE APPLICATION OF THIS MISSILE AS THE BASIS FOR A LAND BASED MEDIUM SAM SYSTEM.

7. ALL TOLD, THIS PACKAGE OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE UK'S GUIDED WEAPONS STOCKS WILL COST ABOUT 400 MILLION POUNDS, AND WILL ENSURE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF THE BRITISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

8. I AM SENDING COPIES OF THIS LETTER TO OUR DPC COLLEAGUES

AM MAKING COPIES AVAILABLE TO THE FRENCH AND GREEK  
AMBASSADORS. END TEXT. GLITMAN

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## Message Attributes

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